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Supervisor Ridley-Thomas Receives 2011 National Leadership Award

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas was honored with the National Leadership Award from the National Forum for Black Administrators at its eighth annual awards banquet Thursday, July 21 in Washington DC.

The leadership award, which also was given to Missouri Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II, and Harry E. Johnson, Sr., president and chief executive officer of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc. is given to public servants who have demonstrated an unselfish commitment to serving the community, exhibited exemplary leadership, and achieved excellence in public service.

In his acceptance speech, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said, "I am humbled and honored to be recognized by the national forum. "I strive not only to be an effective leader in the political arena, but to always be mindful that I follow in the footsteps of African-American trailblazers who opened the door for me and many others who are dedicated to this work."

The Supervisor added: "I'd also like to commend the forum for its efforts of preparing the next generation of young people to be conduits of new ideas, innovation, and change in public service positions."

Founded in 1983, the National Forum for Black Public Administrators is a professional membership organization dedicated to advancing Black leadership

in the public sector. To date the organization has 2,700 members, representing more that 350 jurisdictions in 36 states.

The forum is committed to increasing the number of African Americans appointed to executive positions in public service organizations by grooming aspiring leaders for senior public management positions.

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